

Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA), RSC Chairman Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY), RSC Repeal Task Force Chairman

Repeal Restrictions on the Interstate Commerce in Firearms

February 26, 2014

This Congress, Representative Steve Scalise (R-LA) introduced H.R. 3335, legislation to repeal the ban on selling handguns by licensed dealers to out-of-state buyers found in the Gun Control Act of 1968. Since 1986, firearms dealers may only do business at their licensed premises or at gun shows in their own state. Dealers may not transfer firearms to one another face to face, away from their business premises. These restrictions were in place to prevent buyers from avoiding "background checks" that were largely carried out by police chiefs who issued firearm permits.

Since 1998, however, anyone buying firearms from dealers in the United States must undergo a computerized background check through the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Either the dealer contacts NICS (directly or through a state "point of contact" agency) or the buyer presents a state firearms permit issued after a NICS check.

H.R. 3335, the Firearms Interstate Commerce Reform Act, offers common sense measures that take advantage of the above technological improvements to further reduce restrictions on law-abiding citizens. It would allow individuals to buy handguns, rifles, and shotguns from licensed dealers in another state as long as the transfer was conducted in person and the laws of both states were followed. It would also allow members of the Armed Forces to purchase firearms as a resident of the state where they reside in addition to the state of their permanent duty station.

To cosponsor H.R. 3335, the Firearms Interstate Commerce Reform Act, or for additional information, please contact John Seale in Rep. Scalise's office at john.seale@mail.house.gov or 5-3015.

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